reports that advantage is being freely taken by the cardamom ryots of the facilities afforded by the new rules sanctioned last year, and the concessions allowed for settling on the hills. The grazing rules were revised during the year by which the charge per head of cattle was reduced from 3 to 2 annas up to a maximum of 500 head of cattle to each ryot. The resurvey of the cardamom gardens ordered in connection with the reduction of tax and grant of permanent tenure was completed during the year in the Poopara Division.

The receipts amounted to Rs. 1,43,014 or over Rs. 20,000 more than in 1080.

14. **Public Works.**—There were some important changes during the year in this branch of the service. In view of the early prospect of service of water from the Kodayar Reservoir to Nanjanad and with the object of placing the regulation and distribution of water on a sound basis, the separate departments for tanks and irrigation which were under the Southern Division Peishkar were transferred to the Public Works Department. The irrigation staff in the Shencottah Taluk was also similarly transferred to that department.

The Marahmut Department was reorganised and its operations are now restricted to works connected with devaswoms, choultries and other charitable institutions and palaces. These works are placed under the immediate charge of the Tahsildars under the supervision and control of the Division Peishkars, all other works having been transferred to the P. W. D. The Panivagay Department in the Capital charged principally with the execution of works connected with His Highness the Maha Rajah's and other Palaces and the temples and religious institutions inside the Fort was placed under the control of the Palace Sarvadhikariakar.

Public Works Department.—The expenditure incurred by the Chief Engineer's Department amounted to Rs. 18,13,763, of which Rs. 15,35,216 represents the expenditure on actual works. This was apportioned as follows over the usual main service heads of "communications", "buildings", &c., and the several P. W. D. Divisions.

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	Rs.		Rs.
Communications	8,26,259	Muvattupuzha Division	1,98,019
Buildings	1,83,223	Kottayam Do.	2,30,246
Irrigation Works	4,84,884	Quilon Do.	1,99,598
Miscellaneous	40,850	Trivandrum Do.	2,28,694
		Southern Do.	1,78,421
Total	Rs. 15,35,216	Kodayar Do.	4,90,238
		Total	Rs. 15,35,216.

The expenditure was Rs. 1,93,159 below that of the preceding year. The allotment for the Department had to be reduced for financial reasons.

There were 2,224 miles of cart-roads including planters' roads, 774 miles of village roads, 360 miles of traces and 166 miles of navigation canals and backwaters maintained by the Department during the year. Under the head of original works on communications much useful work was done especially in the way of constructing new and restoring old and decayed bridges in North Travancore. An important bridge under construction is that over the Periyar in the 60th mile, Kottayam–Kumili road, which consumed Rs. 28,534 during the year.

A revised programme of the roads to be newly constructed in North and Central Travancore has been recently received from the Chief Engineer and is under consideration.

Of the expenditure of Rs. 4,84,884 on irrigation works, Rs. 31,566 was spent on minor irrigation works and Rs. 4,53,318 on the Kodayar Project.

Kodayar Project.—The main dam was finished on the 15th June 1906. A Special Board, consisting of Mr. H. E. Clerk, Superintending Engineer and Major W. M. Ellis R. E., of the Madras D. P. W., whose services were kindly lent by the Madras Government, and the Chief Engineer of this State, was appointed to inspect and report on the Left Bank Channel on the proper working of which depends the entire success of the scheme and in which unfortunately slips occurred during the preceding year. The opinion recorded by these officers was reassuring, and acting on their advice, His Highness' Government have sanctioned an estimate for Rs. 3,26,650 for the necessary repairs and improvements. These works are now in

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progress and it is hoped that water will be let down the channel in the near future.

The question of the introduction of steam navigation in the Travancore canals and backwaters is still under consideration. The formation of a Canal subdivision sanctioned during the year under review was given effect to recently.

Marahmut Department.—The expenditure incurred by this department amounted to Rs. 3,39,237. The outlay was mostly on repairs to existing buildings connected with palaces and religious institutions.

15. **Anchal.**—The number of Anchal offices was 150 as in the previous year while that of letter-boxes was 184 or one less than in 1080. Over 56 lakhs of covers, official and private, passed through the offices during the year, showing an increase of over 1½ lakhs. 78,789 hundies were issued for Rs. 10,50,552. Two new denominations of stamps, *i. e.*, 4 cash and 6 cash stamps were introduced during the year for private cards and newspapers.

16. **Devaswoms.**—The reports of the two special officers appointed last year for the compilation of *padivus* and the investigation of the question of purificatory ceremonies in temples have been recently received and are receiving attention.

17. **Separate Revenue.**—The excise system continued in the Trivandrum and Padmanabhapuram Divisions while the farming system was in force in the Quilon and Kottayam Divisions. At the end of the year the triennial lease expired in the latter two Divisions and opportunity was taken to extend the excise system to the Quilon Division from the beginning of the current year. But the Kottayam Division continues to be worked under the farming system as there are practical difficulties in working the excise system in that Division. The excise system in regard to opium and bhang worked during the year and resulted in an increase of revenue.

Salt.—The out-turn of home salt was 2,91,444 maunds. The sales of home and foreign salt were 8,21,001 maunds against 7,83,547 in 1080. Though there was an increase in the quantity of salt sold, the revenue showed a falling off of Rs. 1,39,480 which was due to reduction in the duty.

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